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SECURITY INFORMATION

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CIA

DATE 17 Nov 53

COUNTRY: Western Europe/USSR

SUBJECT: Stockpiling of Plasma and Substitutes/
Rumored Soviet Production of Animal PlasmaPLACE ACQUIRED:
(BY SOURCE)

25X1A6a

DATE ACQUIRED:
(BY SOURCE)

Supplement to: 25X1C10b

Responsive to

DATE (OF INFO): Oct 53 and earlier

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Source or Clarifying Statement:

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1. Switzerland has stockpiled approximately 200 thousand pints of human plasma. I have heard that stockpiles of human plasma also exist in France and in Italy, but I have no details of these programs. I understand that there is no military stockpiling program in Germany, chiefly, I presume, because the German Army is at present nonexistent.
2. The only substitute for human plasma in common use in Western Europe is Dextran which is used only when human plasma is not available. Dextran is produced by two firms in Germany, whose name I do not, at the moment, remember. To my knowledge, there has been no effort at stockpiling Dextran in any Western European country. At an international hematology meeting in Geneva held during the summer of 1953, there was some discussion of the use of despeciated bovine plasma, and I was told that this substance was now being produced by a pharmaceutical firm in Germany. I do not, however, have any accurate or extensive information concerning this matter.
3. I have not received any requests from the USSR, the satellites or China for technical information on antibiotics or hematological substances, nor have I heard of any such requests being received by anyone in Switzerland. I have heard that the Soviets attach a great importance to the potentialities of plasma made from the blood of horses, and that factories are being set up for the processing of this preparation and substantial efforts are being made in the Soviet Union looking toward the collection of large quantities of horse blood. I have no information regarding clinical evaluations of this blood substitute.

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